

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CRIMINAL DIVISION

COMPLAINT

DCTN: 012027629

Lockup No:

Case No: 2012 CRW2424

District of Columbia ss:

Defendant's Name: Eric Felipe Gaskin

489255

(First)

(MI)

(Last)

(PDID)

(CCNO)

Also Known As:

(First)

(Middle)

(Last)

Address: 3316 Dubois Place, SE, Washington DC

On or about May 4, 2012, within the District of Columbia, Eric Felipe Gaskin tortured, tormented, cruelly beat, cruelly chained, mutilated and caused and procured to be so tortured, tormented, cruelly beaten, cruelly chained, mutilated two kittens. (Cruelty to Animals, in violation of 22 D.C. Code Section 1001 (2001 ed.))

Co-Defendants:

2012 AUG 14 P 3:17
SUPERIOR COURT OF
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14 day of August, 2012

(Judge) (Deputy Clerk)

WARRANT

To The United States Marshal or any other authorized federal officer or the Chief of Police of the District of Columbia:

WHEREAS the foregoing complaint and affidavit supporting the allegations thereof have been submitted, and there appearing probable cause and reasonable grounds for the issuance of an arrest warrant for

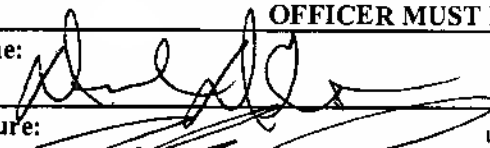

YOU ARE THEREFORE COMMANDED TO BRING THE DEFENDANT BEFORE SAID COURT OR OTHER PERSON ENUMERATED IN 18 U.S.C. 3041 forthwith to answer said charge.

Issued 8/14/12

Judge - Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Title 16: ☐Rule 105: ☐ Judge: ☐

Sex: Male	DOB: 06/18/1973	CCN:	PDID: 489255
Papering Officer: D. D'Eramo			Badge No.:

OFFICER MUST EXECUTE RETURN			
Officer's Name: 		Date / Time: August 14, 2012	
AUSA Signature:  9/15/12		Fel. I <input type="checkbox"/>	AFTC <input type="checkbox"/>
		Fel. II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

T100500667

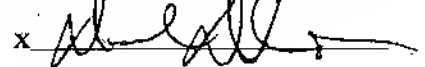
Superior Court of the District of Columbia
CRIMINAL DIVISION

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF AN ARREST WARRANT

USW NO.: 2012 CRW 2424

DEFENDANT'S NAME: Eric Felipe Gaskin					NICKNAME:		ALIASES:		CCN:	PDID: 489255
SEX: M	RACE: Black	DOB: 6/18/73	HGT: 5'11"	WGT: 170	EYES:	HAIR:	COMPL:	SCARS, MARKS, TATOOS		
DEFENDANT'S HOME ADDRESS: 3316 Dubois Pl. SE Washington D.C. 20019							TELEPHONE NUMBER: 202-352-5403			
DEFENDANT'S BUSINESS ADDRESS:							TELEPHONE NUMBER:			
COMPLAINANT'S NAME:							TELEPHONE NUMBER:			
LOCATION OF OFFENSE: 3316 Dubois Pl., SE, Washington, DC							DATE OF OFFENSE: o/a May 4, 2012		TIME OF OFFENSE: o/a May 4, 2012	
CAUTION AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS (CMC) Select a valid CMC code below for wanted person when using the caution indicator.										
<input type="checkbox"/> 00 = Armed and Dangerous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05 = Violent Tendencies <input type="checkbox"/> 10 = Martial Arts Expert <input type="checkbox"/> 15 = Explosive Expertise <input type="checkbox"/> 20 = Known to abuse drugs <input type="checkbox"/> 25 = Escape Risk <input type="checkbox"/> 30 = Sexually Violent Predator <input type="checkbox"/> 50 = Heart Condition					<input type="checkbox"/> 55 = Alcoholic <input type="checkbox"/> 60 = Allergies <input type="checkbox"/> 65 = Epilepsy <input type="checkbox"/> 70 = Suicidal <input type="checkbox"/> 80 = Medication Required <input type="checkbox"/> 85 = Hemophiliac <input type="checkbox"/> 90 = Diabetic <input type="checkbox"/> 01 = Other					
GIVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HAPPENED:										
<p>On May 7, 2012, I was contacted by a staff member at D.C. Animal Care and Control (DCACC). I was told that they just had two kittens surrendered to them in very poor condition. Both kittens appeared to have been de-clawed unprofessionally, neither were walking, and they wanted a humane law enforcement officer to come look into the matter. I arrived at the DCACC shelter approximately 30 minutes later. I met with the veterinary assistant who showed me the kittens. Both were approximately 8 weeks old. She showed me that the ends of the toes on all four paws of both kittens, including the dew claws, appeared to be scabbed over and caked with debris and kitty litter with no claws visible. Neither kitten would stand and some inflammation was seen on the legs of both animals. At this point I impounded both kittens from DCACC and immediately took them to an emergency animal hospital for an exam.</p> <p>At the emergency hospital both kittens underwent extensive examinations by veterinary surgeons, radiologists, and emergency doctors. All involved had similar findings for both animals. Both kittens</p>										

AFFIANT'S SIGNATURE:

x 

TO: WARRANT CLERK

PLEASE ISSUE A WARRANT FOR:

Eric Felipe Gaskin

Charge With: **Felony Animal Cruelty**

AS of 8/10/12
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

NCEC approved

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME THIS _____

14th DAY OF **AUGUST** 20**12**

(JUDGE) DEPUTY CLERK) SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Continuation For Affidavit in Support of an Arrest Warrant

1. COMPLAINT NUMBER

2. NARRATIVE CONTINUED

had wounds which "... have been present for less than 7 days, and most probably happened between 3-5 days." Their injuries were consistent with an intent to amputate the digit vs. clip the claws. The lead surgeon examining the kittens has taught veterinary students appropriate de-clawing techniques and has been called on in the past to evaluate and repair the digits of cats that had inappropriate techniques applied. The surgeon concluded that the "... appearance of the wounds suggest a 'clipping' instrument was applied over all the skin, digital pad and distal phalanx crushing the tissues and smashing the bones to perform a 'de-claw'." This would have been an extremely painful experience for the kittens, and they would have struggled to get away. The pain would have continued as every step would have aggravated the traumatized tissues." Also present in both kittens were multiple broken bones in several of their legs. The doctors surmised that "...the fractures noted on the radiographs and physical exam are present in areas that would be consistent with injuries sustained due to the use of an inappropriate level of restraint in a malnourished pediatric patient. The estimated age of several of the fractures is relatively the same as that estimated for the trauma to the paws. [...] the fractures could have occurred while attempting restraint for the acts performed on the paws." The acts performed on the toes of these kittens without any pain control, sedation, or blood control would have resulted in extreme pain and a large amount of hemorrhaging. Due to the extent of the injuries and the poor prognosis for a full recovery without long term chronic pain, euthanasia was decided to be the most humane option.

On May 9, 2012, I went to 3316 Dubois Pl. SE, the home of the woman who surrendered the kittens (W1). I met with W1 who explained that she didn't really know much about the kittens until the day she surrendered them. She said that her brother, Eric Gaskin (D1) and his daughter have been living in her basement while they are in between houses. She said on May 7th, 2012, D1's daughter was upstairs and said she needed to go down to bring the kittens to the litter box. This was the first W1 heard that they had kittens. W1 asked why she had to move them to the litter box. D1's daughter said it was because the cats could not walk over on their own. W1 told D1's daughter to bring the kittens upstairs for her to see. After seeing the condition that the kittens were in, she decided to bring them to DCACC for care. I asked W1 if her brother or niece were home at the time and she said no. I left my card with her and asked that she have her brother contact me when he gets home.

Having not heard from D1, I returned to 3316 Dubois Pl. SE on May 12, 2012, and met with D1. I asked him to explain his history with the kittens. He said that he had gotten the kittens approximately 7-10 days prior to them being brought to DCACC. He said he wanted to get his 9 yr. old daughter a pet for doing well in school and overheard someone talking selling kittens in the local corner store. He said he wanted some and the man brought D1 and his daughter (who was with him at the time) back to his house where he met with a woman that sold him the two kittens. D1 said he was there for only a short period and the woman claimed that the kittens had already been de-clawed. D1 said he didn't think much of it and thought both kittens appeared to be acting fine. He bought both kittens and brought them to 3316 Dubois Pl. SE. D1 said he later noticed the scabs on the kittens toes and that they were walking funny. He intended on taking them to the vet but hadn't had the chance. D1 also claimed that he did not know how the kittens had broken their legs, but speculated that they may have injured their legs by falling off a table or bookshelf in his apartment while no one was around, or maybe his daughter rolled over on the kittens while in bed. We discussed the age of the wounds and how fresh they seemed. D1 said that perhaps they weren't healing as fast as they should have because he would often scrub the feet of the kittens to try and clean them out. (The veterinarian's report states that "...the presentation of the wounds does not support that aggressive cleaning or debridement was performed.") D1 then showed me where he got the kittens from, which was 1316 Ridge Pl. SE, and gave me a description of the woman he bought the kittens from. I asked if he has tried contacting the woman in regards to the poor condition of their feet and he said no. We agreed to meet again to speak more about the woman and the conditions of the animals. D1 did not show up at the agreed upon date and time. Repeated efforts to contact him failed and D1 has failed to return my calls.

On June 6, 2012, I was able to make contact with a woman who lived at 1316 Ridge Place, SE (W2). W2 said that she remembered selling the two kittens to a male and his daughter and gave a description of the male that was consistent with his appearance. She was also able to confirm the amount she sold the kittens for. W2 stated that D1 contacted her via text message because she had the kittens listed for sale on Craigslist. She said a friend had brought her the kittens from Maryland to take care of because they were very young and didn't have a mother. W2 claimed to have had the kittens approximately 3-4 weeks prior to selling them to the male and his daughter in the first week of May. I asked her if she had the kittens de-clawed prior to selling them and she said no, she never has that done to her cats because they need them when they are outside. She said that D1 claimed he was going to have the kittens de-clawed after he brought them home because he didn't want them tearing up his furniture.

Based on the above there is probable cause to believe that Eric Gaskin, having the charge and custody of animals, to wit, two 8 week old felines/cats, did inflict serious bodily injury while acting with extreme indifference to animal life and knowingly failed to provide necessary veterinary care in violation of D.C Code 22-1001(a)(1) and (d).

Affiant's Signature : 

8/14/12

2/10/18 4/10/12